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J.I.C. 380/4/M

17 September 1948

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J.I.C. 380/4/M17 September 1948NOTE BY THE SECRETARIES

to the

JOINT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

on

ESTIMATE OF THE INTENTIONS AND CAPABILITIES OF THE USSR
IN THE EVENT OF WAR IN 1956

Reference: a. Special Team Memorandum
dated 1 September 1948.
b. J.I.C. 380/3

1. The Special Team, Joint Chiefs of Staff, has requested the Joint Intelligence Committee to furnish an intelligence estimate of the intentions and capabilities of the USSR in the event of war in 1956. It has been requested that the estimate be based on the enclosed special assumptions.

2. The above request is referred to the Intelligence Section, Joint Intelligence Group, for preparation of a response for the consideration of the Joint Intelligence Committee.

C. R. PECK

G. R. HELMER

Joint Secretariat

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E N C L O S U R E

SPECIAL ASSUMPTIONS

1. The Western Union (U.K., France, Benelux) and the nations of the British Commonwealth (Canada, Australia, New Zealand and probably South Africa) will ally with the United States. (The Anglo-American powers plus such others as may ally with them will hereinafter be denoted the Allies.)
2. Spain, Portugal, Italy, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, Greece, Turkey, the Arab League (Egypt, Trans-Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Saudi-Arabia, Yemen) Pakistan, Nationalist China and Japan will attempt to remain neutral but will ally with the United States if attacked or seriously threatened.
3. Allied with the USSR, either willingly or otherwise, will be Poland, Finland, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Albania, Rumania, Bulgaria, Outer Mongolia Peoples' Republic, Manchuria, Korea and Communist China (hereinafter denoted the Soviet Powers).
4. Except for Soviet satellites, other countries of the Eastern Hemisphere will attempt to remain neutral, but will submit to adequate armed occupation by either side rather than fight.
5. Other Western Hemisphere nations will remain neutral or ally with the United States.
6. United States programs for European recovery have been completed by 1953 and have been effective to the extent that countries participating therein by 1956 have achieved political stability and are economically self-supporting.
7. The armed forces of the Western Union have been regenerated by United States military aid programs to the extent that they are capable of delaying Soviet advances through Western Europe and of holding certain areas thereof for approximately six months.

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8. All allied and Soviet combat forces will have been drawn from Germany, Austria, Trieste, Korea and Japan.

9. Japan will be incapable of successfully resisting a Soviet attack without allied assistance.

10. Soviet aggression will be planned in advance and Soviet mobilization to the extent required by initial plans will be practically completed prior to D-day. Intelligence of heightened war preparation on the part of the USSR has been received and U. S. mobilization has been initiated, but has not progressed significantly prior to D-day.

11. Atomic weapons will be used by both sides. Radio-logical, biological and chemical warfare will be used by either side subject to considerations of retaliation.